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WAR AND PLEAS

AT A SUMMIT IN RUSSIA, OBAMA WILL URGE RELUCTANT WORLD LEADERS TO SUPPORT A U.S.-LED STRIKE AGAINST SYRIA PAGE 4

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Anti-bullying bill criticized for ... hurt feelings?

Bill 18. Definitions need to be narrowed, says School Boards Association

A proposed Manitoba law aimed at cracking down on school bullying came under fire on Tuesday night, as the first of hundreds of presenters said the bill is so vague, it could make anyone a bully.

"What if my child, who is of one cultural background, happens to have two friends of the same cultural background and invites only those two children to her birthday party?" Sandra Trinkies, a mother from Niverville, Man., told a legislature committee.

"Could that alone be construed as racism to a child of another cultural background? The possibilities of accusations about hurt feelings are endless."

Bill 18 contains a broader definition of bullying than similar laws in most other provinces. It includes any behaviour that causes, or would be known to cause, fear or harm to someone's "body, feelings, self-esteem, reputation or property." It includes one-time incidents, whereas many other provinces require repeated behaviour to qualify as bullying.

The Opposition Progressive Conservatives spent much of the spring and summer stalling the bill in the legislature, saying teachers or coaches could face accusations of bullying simply for telling a student they are not performing well.

Even some supporters of the NDP government's bill say the definition is too vague. The Manitoba School Boards Association likes the idea behind the bill, but said the definition of bullying needs to be narrowed.

"Zero-tolerance policies are rarely the most effective way of responding to serious situations, yet the definition contained in Bill 18 seems to be advocating for that approach," said Robert Rivard, the association's part-president.

But the proposed legislation also has many supporters. Peter Wohlgemut, a Grade 5 teacher in Altona, was forced last year to take down a gay-friendly sign in his classroom. He told the committee the bullying of gay students is harsher than that aimed at other students.

"There are other groups that certainly need protection ... but the issue here is dealing with a group that is particularly vulnerable and at this point is in particular need of this kind of protection." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kevin Chief, Point Douglas MLA and minister of children and youth opportunities, listens to presenters as public hearings on the province's controversial anti-bullying law kicked off on Tuesday.
SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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NEWS 1

Stolen, abandoned pups find way home

Puppy-napped. Local, social media credited with quick return

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Mirage, one of the eight puppies found abandoned in a ditch last month, is back home after she and her brother were stolen from the backyard of their foster home Sunday night. COURTESY PEARL ANGELINI PHOTOGRAPHY

It was a weekend of more drama for two of the eight puppies found dumped in a ditch in rural Manitoba last month.

On Sunday night, two of the now seven-and-a-half week old Catahoula cross pups — which made headlines after being abandoned and surviving on just dirt and leaves — were stolen from the backyard of the Point Douglas home where they're being fostered.

But the pups were back home within 24 hours, and the local rescue group that originally took them in credits both local and social media for their hasty return.

"It was definitely a roller-coaster ride of a day," said Colleen Holloway of Manitoba Mutts Tuesday. "There was a boy and a girl that were taken, and the girl was found early Monday… and Turk, the male, was returned last night."

Winnipeg police helped bring home the female puppy, Mirage, after someone was caught trying to sell her on Facebook, and a call to a local TV station's tip line saw Turk returned safe and sound later in the day.

Holloway said no questions were asked of the woman who brought back Turk, and the promised $500 reward was handed over.

"They said, 'If it costs us $500 to get our two dogs back in care, we are OK with that,'" said Holloway, explaining the puppies need special care because of the diet they lived on in the ditch. "They are on a special nutrition plan right now to make sure they get all of the vitamins they need and get their systems on track."

Holloway said the attention the puppies have received has left Manitoba Mutts overwhelmed with applications to adopt them, a process which will start within the next few weeks.

Manitoba Mutts

Colleen Holloway of Manitoba Mutts thinks Turk and Mirage were stolen because the thief mistook them as purebred black labs, a breed that can fetch hundreds of dollars online.

Erimar Santos, left, in a blue and white hoodie, looks on as the diorama was unveiled at Winnipeg's airport on Friday. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Airport diorama. Youth share vision of the city

It's a view of Winnipeg never seen before at the Richardson International Airport, a pint-sized version of the city that contains young people's big ideas. About 160 kids and teens with Youth Agencies Alliance helped build a large diorama of their vision for the city, which was unveiled on the airport's main floor on Friday.

Before building the diorama, the youth took workshops that were led by Art City and Graffiti Art Gallery members.

Erimar Santos, 11, said her vision for Winnipeg included "what we want — more dance academies, libraries and parks."

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

120 plants

Steinbach RCMP find secret pot garden

A routine traffic stop over the weekend in Steinbach led RCMP to a secret garden at an area home and a crop of more than 100 pot plants.

Steinbach RCMP decided to follow up with the registered owner of a vehicle pulled over Sunday, after noticing some suspicious items during the traffic stop.

When officers arrived at the owner's home on Main Street, they were greeted by a strong smell of pot and the homeowner was arrested.

After a search warrant was obtained, police found 120 pot plants and growing equipment in a hidden room inside the house.

A 35-year-old man from Steinbach has been charged with production of cannabis marijuana and production for the purpose of trafficking.

METRO

RCMP found 120 pot plants in a secret room at a Steinbach home Sunday. COURTESY RCMP

Boy sees no charges in child killing

Lee Bonneau, 6, was found dead in a wooded area of a Saskatchewan reserve last month. COURTESY RCMP

Saskatchewan. RCMP say boy would have seen murder charge if he was over age 12

ALYSSA MCDONALD
Metro in Regina

Lee Bonneau should have begun Grade 2 on Tuesday — but instead, it was a day when information about the six-year-old's grisly death, allegedly at the hands of another child, was released by police.

At a news conference in Regina, Sgt. Larry Brost, acting officer in charge of an RCMP major-crimes unit, confirmed that if the suspect had not been under the age of 12 — the age needed to face the legal system under the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act — he would have been charged with murder in the tragedy at a Saskatchewan First Nation.

"There is no other person at this point in time in the investigation that could be responsible, other than this child," Brost told reporters at RCMP divisional headquarters.

The boy — whose age has not been made public due to privacy legislation — is in the custody of the Ministry of Social Services and is being held at an out-of-home facility equipped with 24-hour supervision.

He is deemed "in need of protection," according to Social Services, while medical and other professionals determine the kind of treatment and supervision he will require.

Lee died on Aug. 21 at southeast Saskatchewan's Kahkewistahaw First Nation from head trauma caused by a weapon — not a gun or knife, police confirmed, but a weapon "of opportunity."

Lee had last been seen walking with the other boy after he went missing from a community centre, where his caregiver was playing bingo.

Lee, whose funeral was held on Friday, was a ward of a foster home just outside the reserve near Broadview.

The two boys did not know each other.

SIU probe. Elderly woman falls, fractures hip after being Tasered by police

Ontario's police watchdog is investigating an incident in which they say an 80-year-old woman fell and suffered a fractured hip after she was struck by police with a Taser.

Special Investigations Unit spokeswoman Monica Hudon said three Peel Region officers approached the woman around 3:30 a.m. last Wednesday as she was walking along a road in Mississauga.

Hudon said officers spoke with the woman until "at some point" an officer fired his Taser.

Hudon said the elderly woman fell to the ground and was rushed to Credit Valley Hospital for treatment.

The incident occurred one day after the province announced it would permit all front-line police officers to carry stun guns.

The use of force by police in Ontario has come under scrutiny after Sammy Yatim, 18, was shot multiple times and Tasered by police during a confrontation on an empty streetcar.

Videos of the incident prompted hundreds of people to take to the streets.

Another high-profile case that brought the police's use of Tasers under public scrutiny was the 2007 death of a Polish immigrant at Vancouver's airport.

Robert Dziekanski died after being stunned with a Taser by RCMP officers. A public inquiry found that the officers were not justified in using the Taser.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police arsenal

Many police forces, including the Ontario Provincial Police and Toronto Police Services, have said they plan to train and equip their officers with stun guns, in addition to the sidearm, extendable baton and pepper spray that they currently carry.

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Obama seeks support abroad for Syrian strike

Alleged chemical weapons attack. The president aims to convince world leaders, as well as Congress in the U.S., to take action

CODEPINK co-founder Medea Benjamin is removed from the hearing room on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting on military intervention in Syria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama this week plans to urge reluctant world leaders to support a U.S.-led military strike against Syria as he attends a global summit in Russia and makes a stop in Sweden. His three-day overseas trip comes as his administration seeks authorization from Congress.

Top lawmakers signalled support Tuesday after meeting with Obama, while France said it will wait for Congress' decision before any military action of its own.

His surprise announcement over the weekend that he would seek congressional authorization for a military strike against Syria, instead of going ahead with a strike as many expected, may have caused doubts among world leaders about his willingness to follow up on his threats to rogue nations.

His administration argues that the strike is needed in response to what it says was a deadly chemical weapons attack last month.

After his White House meeting Tuesday with lawmakers, the top Republican in Congress, House Speaker John Boehner, said he would support Obama's call for action. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Draft copy

The Senate resolution authorizing the president to use military force against Syria would bar American ground troops for combat operations and set a deadline for any action.

Report. More than 8,000 women killed in India last year over dowry disputes

In this 2007 file photo an Indian woman protests dowry harassment in the Indian state of Gujarat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One woman dies every hour in India because of dowry-related crimes, indicating that the country's economic boom has made demands for dowries even more persistent, women's rights activists said Tuesday.

The National Crime Records Bureau says 8,233 women were killed across India last year because of disputes over dowry payments given by the bride's family to the groom or his family at the time of marriage.

The conviction rate in dowry-related crimes remained a low 32 per cent, according to statistics the bureau published last week.

Indian law prohibits the giving or receiving of a dowry, but the centuries-old social custom persists.

Dowry demands often continue for years after the wedding. Each year, thousands of young Indian women are doused with gasoline and burned to death because the groom or his family felt the dowry was inadequate.

Women's rights activists and police said that loopholes in dowry prevention laws, delays in prosecution and low conviction rates have led to a steady rise in dowry-related crimes.

Dowry demands have become even more insistent and expensive following India's economic boom, said Ranjana Kumari, a women's rights activist. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Microsoft steps up mobile push with Nokia acquisition

Helsinki. Handset deal is an attempt to narrow gap with Apple, Google

Nokia CEO Stephen Elop, left, and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Microsoft Corp. is buying Nokia Corp.'s lineup of smartphones and a portfolio of patents and services in an effort to strengthen its fight with Apple and Google, and capture a slice of the lucrative mobile computing market.

The $7.2-billion US deal marks a major step in the company's push to transform itself from a software maker focused on desktop and laptop computers into a more versatile and nimble company that delivers services on any kind of Internet-connected gadget.

Microsoft has been racing to catch up with customers who are increasingly pursuing their digital lives on smartphones and tablet computers. It's now betting it will have a better chance of narrowing the gap with its rivals if it seizes complete control over how Nokia's mobile devices work with its Windows software.

Ballmer admitted Tuesday that the company has to play catch-up with the likes of Apple and Android. "We know we need to accelerate. We're not confused about that," he said. "We need to be a company that provides a family of devices."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Microsoft succession

- Microsoft is also looking for a new leader. Ten days ago, CEO Steve Ballmer said he would step down within the next year.
- Stephen Elop, a Canadian who left Microsoft in 2010 to become Nokia's CEO, will rejoin Microsoft once the acquisition closes. There's speculation he'll be a top candidate to succeed Ballmer.

No Key Lime Pie for you

Seems that when little green robots eat candy bars, they opt for a Kit Kat. Tech pundits have speculated for months that the next Android operating system would be called Key Lime Pie — in keeping with Google's affinity for naming new versions after desserts — but on Tuesday the firm revealed it has chosen a brand-name candy for the first time. The Android 4.4 Kit Kat system is expected to launch in October, and in turn, the robot mascot is pictured tucking into a chocolate bar on the new Kit Kat label, shown above. Marc Vanlerberghe, director of Android Marketing, said the name was chosen because Kit Kat bars have been a "favourite go-to snack among the team since the early days of Android." COURTESY THE HERSHEY COMPANY

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.97¢ (unchanged)

TSX 12,740.50 (+86.60)

OIL $108.54 US (+89¢)

GOLD $1,412 US (+$15.90)

Natural gas: $3.67 US (+9¢)
Dow Jones: 14,833.96 (+23.65)

Wireless market

After Verizon fuss, cell prices could creep up again

A decision by U.S. giant Verizon to no longer try to enter Canada's wireless market may mean Canadians could soon end up paying more on their cellphone bills, say several analysts.

The prospect of Verizon's entry had produced more options for consumers as the country's big three wireless carriers offered new data sharing plans, previously unavailable for smartphones and tablets, telecom analyst Iain Grant said Tuesday.

"If nothing else, even the spectre of Verizon coming here was enough to change pricing in the Canadian market," Grant said. "Without Verizon, will prices creep up? I think, sadly, the answer is probably yes."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auto safety. Hackers can now take over cars

As cars become more like PCs on wheels, what's to stop a hacker from taking over yours?

In recent demonstrations, hackers have shown they can slam a car's brakes at freeway speeds, jerk the steering wheel and even shut down the engine — all from their laptops.

The hackers are publicizing their work to reveal vulnerabilities present in a growing number of car computers. All cars and trucks contain anywhere from 20 to 70 computers. They control everything from the brakes to acceleration to the windows, and are connected to an internal network. A few hackers have recently managed to find their way into these intricate networks.

To be sure, the "hackers" involved were well-intentioned computer security experts, and it took them months to break into the computers. And there have been no real-world cases of a hacker remotely taking over a car. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California

Is Apple about to unveil more iPhone colours?

Apple has sent a colourful invitation for an event next week amid speculation that it may debut new colours for the latest iPhone.

The invitation for the Sept. 10 event has a picture of the Apple logo surrounded by multi-coloured polka dots and the sentence: "This should brighten everyone's day."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halifax. Mall that ran sexist ads donates $5K

Halifax's Mic Mac Mall has made a $5,000 donation to a group that supports young women exploring careers in science and technology.

The donation fulfills a promise made in response to a social media backlash and complaints that a back-to-school advertising campaign was sexist. The ads featured cartoon women with slogans equating shopping with scientific endeavour. The mall pulled the campaign in late August.

On Tuesday, the mall said the funding will go to Techsploration, which helps female students in grades 9 through 12 explore careers in science, trades and technology.

"(Techsploration) helps young women understand the significance of high school math and science for their future careers while inspiring them to live their dreams, challenge stereotypes and open new doors," states the release.
METRO IN HALIFAX

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WHAT DID YOU DO ON THE WEEKEND?

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Weekend warriors are a dime a dozen.

They're out running marathons, hanging off cliff faces, riding their bicycles up steep switchbacks, or playing hockey at three in the morning because that's the only ice time available.

They whack various little round balls with various sticks and rackets.

They run, jump, throw, slide and stretch.

Unlike real athletes, who vie for world records or record paydays, they do all of this for next to zero recognition — a cheap medal, a certificate, a plastic water bottle, a trophy from Trophies R Us.

They get hurt. Sometimes they die. But unless they die, they don't quit.

Then there's Diana Nyad.

What she did this weekend goes into the Weekend Warrior Hall of Fame. She accomplished what she had already failed to do four times: Become the first person to swim the 177 kilometres from Cuba to the Florida Keys, without a shark cage.

If that last detail doesn't get your attention, how about she spent 53 hours in the water, swallowed so much seawater that she vomited early and often, was stung by jellyfish, but like the Energizer Bunny in a wetsuit, she just kept going until she hit the beach in Florida.

Did I mention that she is 64 years old?

Why did she do it?

How about she "wants to send a message of peace, love, friendship and happiness … between the people of the United States and Cuba."

Other people might send an email.

Diana Nyad has had this "Xtreme Dream" since 1978 when she tried and failed the first time.

At the time, she was already a long-distance swimmer who set the world record for swimming around the Island of Manhattan in under eight hours.

Then, life got in the way, but she never forgot her unfinished business and after a 30-year layoff, she tried again in 2011. And again. And again. And again in 2012.

Frankly, I thought she was done the last time. But never count a weekend warrior out. They can't help themselves.

A cynic (that's usually me) could say she's a motivational speaker and author (her books have titles like The Boss of Me) and needs fresh material to remain in demand on the lecture circuit — after all she charges up to $40K a pop.

But really? What would you rather do: Face sharks, jellyfish, choking brine, storms, waves, nausea and fatigue? Or find another topic?

Or you could do what most 64-year-olds do. Think about retiring.

But I suspect Diana Nyad is not done yet.

Not as long as there's still another weekend.

ZOOM

'This is your captain: We need more cookies'

COURTESY REX FEATURES

Flight of the five-year-old

He looks confident but record-breaker He Yide, 5, must have been a little nervous as he became the youngest person to fly an aircraft.

The mini pilot completed a 35-minute flight over Beijing, with supervision — but no help — from a coach. Yide has strict training, which included a controversial run in snow last year. **METRO**

Dad of the year

"When the baby eagle is old enough, the mother eagle would harshly push it down the cliff. I don't agree with the education of most parents. They are too protective and caring, which makes their kid lazy."

He Yide's father He Liesheng

He Yide's diary

- **Early bird.** Awake at 4:30 a.m. each day for flight training before school.
- **Conquering the seas.** The boy has also sailed a yacht in an international competition.
- **Ain't no mountain high enough.** Yide recently climbed Mount Fuji during a storm.

Worth every penny

$4,900

The cost in U.S. dollars of He Yide's flight training. It has not been wasted though — the child's next flight is already planned for Hoh Xil, an isolated region in the northwestern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Was it YellowTiger62 or GoldenCat63? Keeping passwords straight may be easy enough when you've got a one-fits-all setup, but once you go beyond that, keeping your deepest, darkest in the dark gets a bit more complicated. Or at least it used to be complicated.

Nymi:
More than just a password keeper, this heart-rate based authentication bracelet, pictured, not only keeps your passwords straight, it also acts as a one-key-fits-all device. Hello key-free living! Pre-order for $79.

LastPass:
One of the dinosaurs of the password managers, LastPass has been around since 2008 and made a name for itself as the go-to password keeper. Works on all operating systems, free for desktop, $12/year for mobile.

KeePass:
Free, open source password manager keeps your passwords safely encrypted in a secure database.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Hackers are now tampering with cars' computer systems. What should be done to counter the problem?

@Canucklehead_ca: Seems simple enough: make all cars password protected! (All passwords must contain a capital letter, a number, two symbols …)

@Brendanger: Walk or take public transit.

@EastVanPrint: Encryption and closed networking

@almajwilson70: find them real jobs obviously they have nothing constructive to do

@Simpson957: Car companies should give nerds fancy cars so we can work out a good defense against the hackers. Me first.

@OnlyFakie: if cars are generally computers now, why don't they follow computers and have the same security they do?

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca

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Vin Diesel returns to the Pitch Black series in his role as Richard B. Riddick. CONTRIBUTED

Going from the sexiest ugly man to Richard B. Riddick

Vin Diesel. Few know that the Fast and Furious and Pitch Black star has been acting since age seven and has a long list of accomplishments

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Vin Diesel has been acting since age seven and played many characters on screen, but he is best known by two alter egos.

We'll have to wait until next year to see him behind the wheel as Dominic Toretto in the new Fast and Furious movie, but this weekend he returns to theatres as Richard B. Riddick, anti-hero of the Pitch Black series of films and video games.

In Riddick, his fourth outing as the mercenary-turned-enforcer, he has been double-crossed and left for dead.

His battles with predatory aliens has honed his skills, his thirst for revenge and his desire to return to his home planet of Furya.

Diesel loves playing Riddick. "I know it sounds corny but I feel like I learn about myself when I play that character," he says.

But he's also created some other memorable characters.

Critics and audiences first took notice of Diesel as Private Caparzo in Saving Private Ryan. He says winning the role was "like one of those Hollywood fairy tales that you never believed."

Director Steven Spielberg saw Multi-Facial, an über low budget short film directed by and starring Diesel.

The ET director was so taken with the young actor's performance that he had a role specially written for him. The result was an effective performance that mixed physicality with poignancy.

Diesel lent his distinctive gravelly voice to the title character in the animated film The Iron Giant.

Directed by Brad Bird, the story of a lonely boy who discovers a 50-foot, metal-eating robot who fell from space, failed at the box office but has a 97 per cent Rotten Tomatoes rating.

His searing portrayal of streetwise stockbroker Chris Varick in the 2000 stockbroker drama Boiler Room garnered him considerable critical praise.

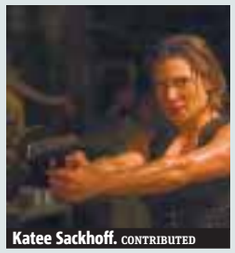
Roger Ebert wrote, "Diesel is interesting. Something will come of him," and New York Times critic A.O. Scott said the actor, "may be the sexiest ugly man in movies since Anthony Quinn."

Knockaround Guys is a coming-of-age story with a gangland twist.

The four sons (Vin Diesel, Seth Green, Barry Pepper, and Andrew Davoli) of Brooklyn mobsters band together to reclaim a quarter of a million dollars lost in a small town run by a crooked sheriff (Tom Noonan).

Diesel oozes charisma in a so-so film, tossing off tough guy lines like, "That's about the only thing you can count on in this life, there's nobody that wouldn't hurt you ... if it helped them," with ease.

More on Riddick



Katee Sackhoff. CONTRIBUTED

Being the only girl in the room on Riddick

In Riddick, Katee Sackhoff co-stars alongside Vin Diesel as Dahl, the only female member of a team of mercenaries — but also one of its toughest.

Riddick is very funny, surprisingly.
My best friend is terrified of scary movies. She's going to the premiere and she was like, "How scared am I going to be?" And I was like, "Sweetie, it's not scary."

Do you worry about doing what you're already known for when looking for parts?
I think people spend too much time trying to understand this business when you can't understand it. I don't think there's any real right way or wrong way to do this. Truthfully, I feel blessed that people want me to do it at all, and if that's science fiction and action, I'd rather do that than so many other genres. So I'm good.

It doesn't mean that I can't do and haven't done things outside of it; it's just where fans want to see me right now. You give them what they want, you know?

NED EHRBAR/MWN

There's a page for that in the new IKEA Catalogue.

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Ash learned her lesson: don't laugh, do think terrible thoughts

Canadian starlet. Learning to improvise with Rebel Wilson was enjoyable, but holding in her giggles while doing so was a challenge

There was one thing Lauren Ash learned early on during the filming of Super Fun Night.

"You get really good at biting the inside of your mouth to try not to laugh, and thinking terrible thoughts," says the Canadian, who stars alongside Aussie Rebel Wilson in the new comedy about three 20-something friends rediscovering the joy of spending a Friday night out on the town.

"They are kind of like fishes out of water, for lack of a better term," said Ash, who plays Marika. "Every week we get to see them do things that you and I may think is normal, but this is a huge deal for them.

"Absolutely, girl's night is a huge thing. I don't know why we have to label it so, but I think women in general like that, 'We are going to do it. There aren't going to be any guys and we are going to wear pyjamas.'"

Just don't assume this is a female version of The Big Bang Theory, warns Ash. "They are just social misfits. They are weirdos, not nerds. There is nobody who is quoting science or anything." If anything, the show is more akin to a 1980s John Hughes comedy.

To really bond, Ash says the cast spent some time together away from the set — which helped when it came to improvising their scenes.

"You get this rolodex of things you can pull out that the other person will be familiar with and will make them laugh a little bit," says Ash, who studied at Toronto's Second City. "It was a pretty big dream for me to be able to improvise, and it made for a really amazing experience."

Super Fun Night premieres Sept. 30, on City.

METRO

From personal experience

• Rebel Wilson says Super Fun Night burst from her own social misadventures. The Australian-born comedian-actress said she used to sit home many nights with pals watching DVDs. Then she resolved to spread her wings and force herself into social situations.

Liza Lapira, Rebel Wilson and Lauren Ash in Super Fun Night. CONTRIBUTED

We Are Men

Swimwear surprise for O'Connell

Jerry O'Connell got a surprise when he saw part of his character's wardrobe in the new Global comedy We Are Men. He didn't find out he would be wearing a skimpy swimsuit in several scenes until he saw it hanging in his dressing room.

"We're a couple episodes in and I'm in the Speedo continually. I have joined a gym and I've started drinking light beer. I don't know how guys like Michael Phelps do it all the time," he said.

O'Connell's wife, Rebecca Romijn, knows a thing or two about swimsuits as a former Sports Illustrated cover model.

"My wife's advice was, 'Go get a tan, do some push-ups and maybe do some Pilates,'" O'Connell added.

We Are Men airs Wednesdays starting Sept. 29.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerry O'Connell's wife, who is a former Sports Illustrated swimwear model, gave her husband advice on sporting a Speedo. CONTRIBUTED

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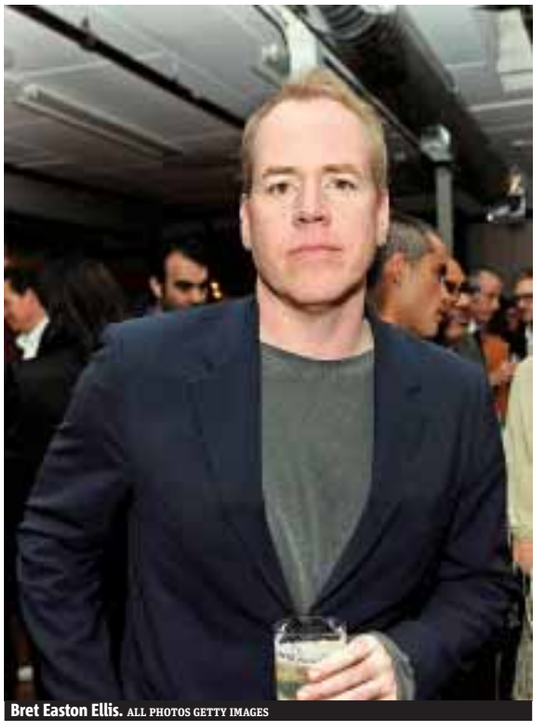


Bret Easton Ellis. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

James Deen as Mr. Grey? Not enough alcohol in the world

While the casting announcements are official for 50 Shades of Grey — with Dakota Johnson and Pacific Rim star Charlie Hunnam taking the much-debated lead roles — apparently not everyone is in agreement behind the scenes of the hot literary adaptation.

After the news was announced, author Bret Easton Ellis took to Twitter to rain on the parade and share some information.

"Talked to (author) E.L. James at a party over the summer. Her first choice for Christian was Rob Pattinson," he posted.

"When E.L. James asked me who I thought should be Christian I said, '(Porn star) James Deen, of course,' and then she shoved me. We were both very wasted."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

American Idol rounds out its panel with latest addition

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

After months of speculation, it was announced that handsome Southern crooner Harry Connick Jr. and former American Idol judge Jennifer Lopez are officially joining American Idol 13.

The two join Keith Urban on the judge's panel; stalwart Randy Jackson will be back as an "in-house" mentor.

And, what would Idol be without Ryan Seacrest? The personality, of course, will be back as host.

"I have always been a huge fan of American Idol and really enjoyed my time as a mentor on the show," said Connick in a press release.

"And I am honoured that they've asked me to be a judge this season. As an entertainer, I am truly excited to bring my perspective to American Idol and to help emerging performers find their way."

For her take on the announcement, Lopez simply tweeted, "#IDOL-2014TheRemix."

Hopefully the addition of Connick and Lopez will help this new season's ratings. This past season was American Idol's worst rated since the show began airing in 2002.

Will Smith

Another day, another sale for the Smith family

Will and Jada Pinkett Smith have decided to ditch their sprawling, palatial Calabasas, Calif., compound, according to the Real Estalker blog.

The Hollywood power couple is reportedly looking to get $42 million for the property, which features a 25,000 square foot adobe-style main house, man-made lakes, a hotel-size pool and facilities for tennis, volleyball and basketball.

The family sold a property on the Hawaiian island of Kauai for $20 million in 2011.

Twitter

@pattonoswalt
In 28 days, no more BREAKING BAD, ever.

@oliviawilde
Met a psychic tonight who said she loved me on Grey's Anatomy... Thus my skepticism about psychics.

@justinbieber
Another plane. Where am I off to next?

The sun is shining and the weather is sweet in Jamaica

Island time. Beyond the beautiful beaches are great restaurants and exciting activities

JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

Diving into the perfect water near Rick's Café. Just watch your Red Stripe intake before you jump. PHOTOS JIM BYERS/METRO

Rum bars filled with colourful locals, glorious beaches, waterfalls you can climb and romantic river rafts. Yep, Jamaica has a lot to offer.

Of course, there are the swanky resorts and infamous spots such as Hedonism, where just about anything goes, including a lot of bathing suits. And don't forget the jerk shacks that waft heavenly spices out over the island and the reggae music.

Sleeping

Negril has awesome sunsets and an endless beach flanked by resorts such as Beaches, Sandals and the aforementioned Hedonism. Further north and east are the impeccable grounds of Half Moon, a RockResort, equipped with a fun and not too tricked-up golf course, a sweeping beach and a who's who list of attendees, including Queen Elizabeth and Paul Simon. My personal favourite resort for a taste of local culture is Jakes at Treasure Beach, a spot on the south side of the island with pseudo-Moroccan design and glorious detached villas in bright ochre and pale blue.

Dining

Half Moon features the romantic Sugar Mill restaurant, with a gorgeous patio lit up by overhead lights hanging from gnarly trees. Try the snapper in a coconut-saffron sauce or jerk chicken spring rolls. A favourite for casual jerk chicken is Scotchie's near the Montego Bay Airport, where you can fill your belly for less than $10. In the Montego Bay Freeport zone is the fabulous House Boat restaurant, reached by a three-second ferry/raft. Gaze out on the bay and the lights in the hills and dine on spicy shrimp in a scotch bonnet beurre blanc sauce or a Queen Conch fritter. Jakes at Treasure Beach has a marvelous kitchen. Next door on the beach is Jack Spratts, which serves a fabulous jerk sausage pizza.

Doing

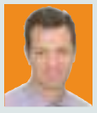
At Half Moon you can take a horseback ride and swim with the animals, who love nothing more on a hot day than submersing themselves in the cool ocean water. Dunn's River Falls is famous as a playground where you can clamber up large rocks and dunk yourself in the cool water running down from the mountains. Prefer to let someone else do the work? Try a romantic rafting trip on the peaceful Martha Brae River near Falmouth, where a local will guide you along on a wide bamboo raft under a jungle canopy.

Drinking

If you must, you can down Jell-O shots or any number of sickly sweet things at Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville on the Hip Strip in Montego Bay, which is jammed to the rafters with cruise ship day-trippers and has a cool waterslide that drops you a couple stories into the bay. You don't want to miss Rick's Café, south of Negril. The water is the most beautiful shade of aquamarine imaginable, and local kids will do handstands and crazy dives off huge cliffs for a couple of bucks. You can try a belly-flop of your own from several spots, too. Take a boat ride from the south shore to the ramshackle Pelican Bar, which sits in a few feet of warm water a half mile or so off the coast and looks to be mostly made up of driftwood, with a thatched roof. Very memorable.

Autumn travel

Put a little colour in your trip this fall



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

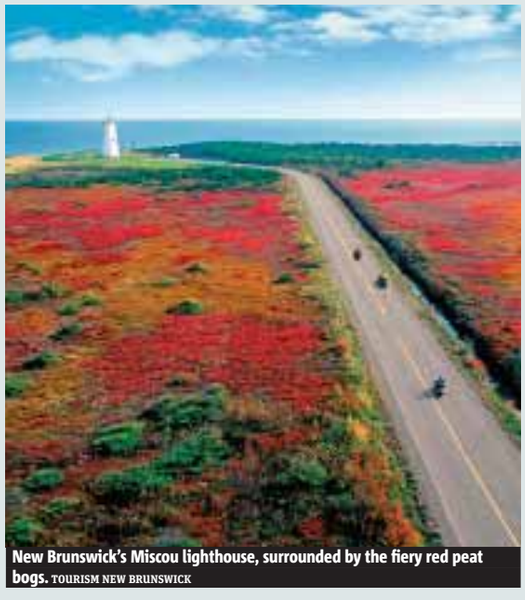
If you are a leaf peeper the next six weeks provide numerous opportunities for a fabulous fall getaway. The proliferation of maples and birches in Eastern Canada and their vibrant and varied fall colours make a trip in this part of the country particularly appealing.

In Ontario, the Agawa Canyon Tour Train takes riders through an explosion of colour. The rail cars were fully renovated last year with a camera at the front of the car that broadcasts to flat screens in the passenger cars so you can get a "conductor's view" of the journey. A GPS triggered commentary announces points of interest and shares the history of the region. There are packages available that include train tickets, two night accommodations and options for meals. Book now, as availability is already limited.

If you are heading elsewhere in the province check out ontariotravel.net for live updates on the fall colour report. Download the app when you head out on your journey and browse the site for a wide variety of autumn packages including a Mennonite Horse and Buggy package.

Nova Scotia's Cabot Trail is a spectacular drive year-round, but at this time of year, it's at its best. Plan a trip in mid-October and catch part of the 16th Celtic Colours Festival.

Running from Oct. 11 through 19 this annual event features community dinners, shows and 46 concerts with local Celtic and international musicians. Throughout Quebec from the Eastern Townships to Charlevoix, many of the province's ski resorts will be turned into fall festival headquarters with a variety of hillside leaf peeping opportunities coupled with barbecues, live music and numerous family activities. In British Columbia they are celebrating the 33rd annual Fall Okanagan Wine Festival. More than 165 wine, food, educational and arts-focused events are set to fill the roster from Oct. 4 through to Oct. 14.



New Brunswick's Miscou lighthouse, surrounded by the fiery red peat bogs. TOURISM NEW BRUNSWICK

How do you know which arrangement you are in?

You may be an employee when at least some of the following describes your working arrangement:

- You receive training from the company
- The company supervises your work
- You do not have control over your work, hours or rate of pay
- You work with tools or equipment that the company provides

You may be an independent contractor when some of the following describes your working arrangement:

- You control how your work is done. You may hire other people to assist in doing the work and you (not the company) direct their work
- You can negotiate your pay and when your work has to be done
- You are not an integral part of the company

A signed contract is not always a clear indication of where you stand. ISTOCK

So am I a full-timer or a free agent?

The blurred lines of business. Being employed doesn't necessarily mean that you're an "employee"

PARISA NIKFARJAM
TalentEgg.ca

You may be finding that you or your friends are increasingly entering into working relationships where you're an "independent contractor" rather than an employee.

Why? Employers often prefer hiring independent contractors for the cost savings. Contractors do not receive benefit packages, pensions or other perquisites provided to employees. They do not have entitlements to basic employment rights such as minimum wage, overtime pay, health and safety protections, job-protected leaves and human rights protections.

On the other hand, contractors benefit from a big (tax) advantage, in that they can deduct reasonable business expenses at tax time.

Despite potential benefits, there are significant drawbacks if a contractor is truly an employee, including unpaid taxes (for both the employer and the contractor), penalties, interest, CPP, EI, and other legal liability (under the Human Rights Code and the Employment Standards Act).

Even if you sign a contract which states that you are an independent contractor, you may still be an employee.

What determines whether you are an employee or an independent contractor is the nature of the relationship; in other words, how your work is actually performed. Therefore, even if you sign a contract that says you're an independent contractor, you may still have rights and obligations as an employee.

As the final determination depends on the individual facts and circumstances of each arrangement, remember that old saying about the duck: if you act like an employee and are treated like an employee (in all but receiving the benefits/protections of an employee), you're likely an employee, notwithstanding intentions to the contrary.

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The faux-pas of a professional feed

When hitting send impedes success.
How tweet it is to take advantage of this tool. Just make sure you use it properly!

JESSICA CRUZ
TalentEgg.ca

Don't hide behind your hashtags. If you want an employer to pick you out of the crowd, make your account public. ISTOCK

Ah, the wonderful world of Twitter. A land where users post their most random thoughts, check out the latest sports updates and watch in awe as celebrities make gross grammatical errors.

But if that's all they're doing, visitors to Twitter may be missing out. It turns out that the social network can be a great asset to the job hunt, provided the job-searcher avoids a few common mistakes along the way.

Don't keep your settings private

It's OK to keep personal accounts on Twitter for friends.

But if you're using Twitter for job searches and networking, your account needs to be accessible. How can anyone respond to your tweets? You might connect with a recruiter who is at the same conference as you, get instant updates on that job you've been waiting for or even win a contest.

Transparency is key when utilizing social media for developing your personal brand, job hunting or networking. It also opens doors for other people to contact you about opportunities and learn more about you.

Don't mix too much of your personal life with your professional life

Remember the purpose of the account. Keep in mind that an online account means 24/7 access for potential employers. The second something goes up, someone will see it.

Post on different channels with your own discretion, or don't post it at all. An open account should not mean unlimited access to your life.

Don't exaggerate your job title

Keep your tagline current, direct, and about your profession.

Use a decent photo and include a helpful link and customized background.

It's good to show a bit of personality, but try to keep the content relevant to your industry and how you want others to see you.

Don't be too controversial

Avoid topics like politics or starting arguments with other users.

Don't skew an employer's impression of your values.

Separating business and personal opinions helps you keep your personal life from affecting your professional life.

Don't be ashamed to boost yourself up

Remember that you're using Twitter as a personal branding tool. It's good to mention accomplishments, events or milestones in your life. Decide how much is appropriate — your online presence may be the strongest first impression.

Don't forget to check your interactions

Stay updated with who is interacting with you.

Check your mentions for retweets, replies and followers. Regularly check your direct messages (DM) to see if someone contacted you.

Take a glance at profiles who retweeted, DM or mentioned you. See what they tweet about; perhaps you'll find a common interest or a potential employer.

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Connect with others!

Twitter was created for casual interaction

- If you find a company you like, follow them. If you find a campus recruiter from the same company, follow them, and retweet or respond to their tweets.
- Twitter can be used as a learning tool as much as a social tool. Combine these experiences and output productivity for your job hunt from your time online.

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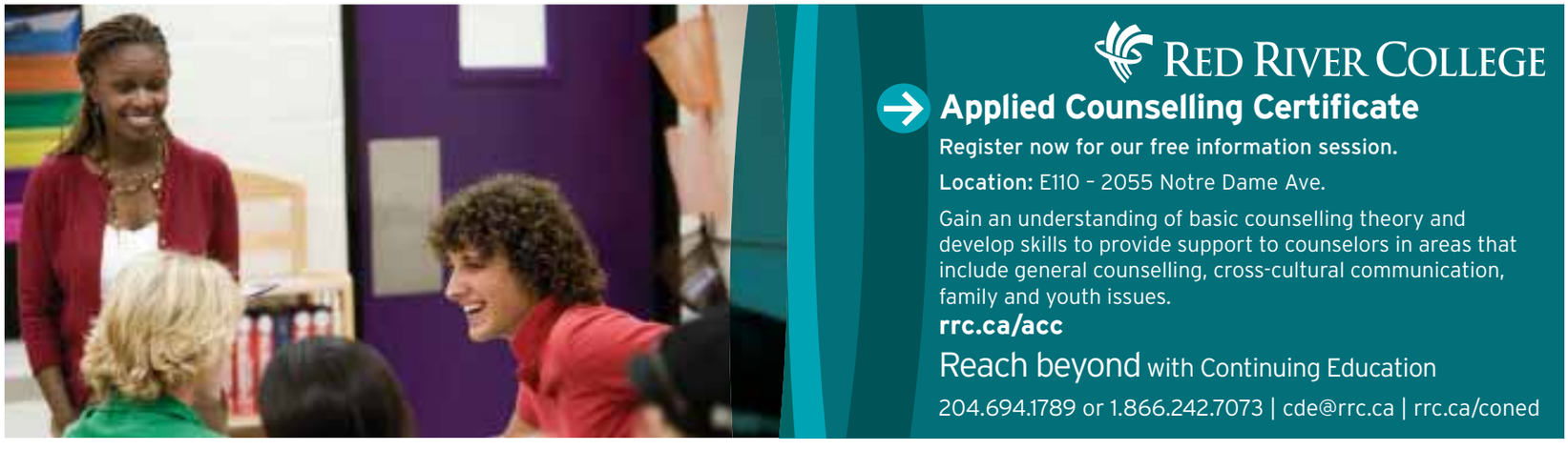
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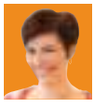
Didn't think it was possible to do fancy on a budget? Think again



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

This meal may come in slightly over $5 if you don't get your ingredients on sale and you do use the wine. But it is absolutely worth every penny.

This dish, which features high nutrient spinach in a convenient frozen form paired with high iron chicken thighs and a tasty balsamic vinegar and blue cheese, is yours in under 10 minutes.

Ingredients

- 1 pkg (450 g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained ($1.29)
- 1 lb skinless chicken thighs ($4.30)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced ($0.10)
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar ($0.10)
- 1/4 cup red wine (optional) ($0.60)
- 2 tsp dried oregano ($0.03)
- 2-4 oz blue cheese, crumbled ($0.60)

Total: $7.02
Per person: $3.51

Eat cheap (and healthy)

The past two Wednesdays, Metro's Theresa Albert has served up easy to make and healthy recipes that are perfect for families or starving students. If you missed them, check out the recipes at metronews.ca/food. And don't forget to look for the final two recipes in the series on Sept. 11 and 18.

Baked Chicken with Spinach and Blue Cheese

For a variation on this recipe, which serves two, try stuffing the chicken with spinach. ISTOCK

1. Microwave spinach just to thaw and let drain in a colander in the sink until ready to assemble.

2. Break up spinach into large, low casserole dish. Nestle chicken pieces into spinach. Sprinkle with garlic, vinegar, wine, oregano, salt and pepper. Break up blue cheese to spread on top. (Cream cheese is a good substitute)

3. Cover with foil and place into 350 F oven to bake for approximately 45 minutes or until heated through. Meat internal temperature should read 165 F.

Drink of the Week

Hennessy V.S Bramble

The perfect end-of-summer cocktail offers strong, bright flavours.

- 1.5 oz Hennessy V.S
- .5 oz fresh lemon juice
- 4-5 blackberries
- .5 oz simple syrup
- .25 oz of Crème de Cassis
- Twist of lemon

Muddle berries in bottom of a shaker tin and add lemon juice, simple syrup and Hennessy V.S with ice. Shake until well chilled and strain into a rocks glass with fresh ice. Splash Crème de Cassis over the top and garnish with lemon twist and a few blackberries.

RECIPE AND PHOTO COURTESY HENNESSY

In a bit of a pickle...

Once again the aroma of hot vinegar and pickling spices is wafting through Canadian kitchens, and colourful jars of pickled vegetables and sauces are lining countertops. It seems the "lost art" of pickling is not lost at all.

Janet Nezon realized it last year when her Introduction to Home Canning seminars in Toronto attracted 570 registrants. When Toronto's Cookbook Store held a class last fall on fermentation, people came all the way from Rochester, N.Y., says store manager Alison Fryer.

This resurgence of interest in a cooking practice earlier generations did out of necessity is blossoming among mainly women in their 20s and 30s.

"The vast majority (of seminar attendees) were new to canning and pickling," says Nezon of Thornhill, Ont., owner of Rainbow Plate, a company she started to educate children and adults about healthy eating.

"They know they're not reinventing the wheel," Fryer says. "These are ancient arts. But it seems to be the younger generation who are interested."

Jars of pickled goods make great gifts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tradition is likely one factor in the rejuvenation, says Nezon, a daughter and granddaughter of picklers.

Pickled Carrots With Oregano and Peppers are a favourite of Nezon's family.

Because the carrots are raw, she advises letting them sit for a week or so before trying the carrots to let them absorb the flavour.

She also says the finished jars are "gorgeous."

1. Place two 500-ml (2-cup) jars (minus lids) in hot water in canner and place lids in simmering water on the stove. (It's not necessary to sterilize the jars.)

2. In a bowl, combine oregano, sweet peppers and hot pepper flakes.

3. Remove hot jars from canner and divide pepper mixture between them.

4. Add 1 clove garlic to each jar and fill each with half the carrots, leaving a little more than 1 cm (1/2 inch) headspace. Pack carrots tightly.

5. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, combine vinegar, water, sugar and salt and bring to a boil.

Ingredients

- 45 ml (3 tbsp) finely chopped fresh oregano or 15 ml (1 tbsp) dried
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) each chopped sweet red and green pepper
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) hot pepper flakes
- 2 small cloves garlic
- 500 g (1 lb) carrots, washed and peeled if necessary and cut into quarters or whatever shape you prefer
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) white vinegar
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) water
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) granulated sugar
- 5 ml (1 tsp) pickling salt

6. Pour hot liquid over carrots, making sure to cover them but leaving 1 cm (1/2 inch) of headspace between liquid and rim.

7. Process jars in a boiling water canner for 15 minutes for 500-ml (2-cup) jars. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE COMPLETE BOOK OF SMALL-BATCH PRESERVING: OVER 300 RECIPES TO USE YEAR-ROUND BY ELLIE TOPP AND MARGARET HOWARD (FIREFLY BOOKS, 2007).**

Side. Janet's Fermented Kosher Dill Pickles

1. Wash two 1.5-litre (6-cup) mason jars in hot soapy water.

2. In saucepan, bring water to a boil and stir in pickling salt until dissolved. Let brine cool.

3. Scrub cucumbers and slice very thin piece off blossom end of each one.

4. Put 2 sprigs of dill, few pieces of garlic and 15 ml (1 tbsp) pickling spice in each jar.

5. Pack cucumbers vertically into jars, filling halfway. Add another dill sprig and more garlic. Pack remaining cucumbers to fill jars tightly, ensuring all cucumbers are below the "neck" of the jar. Tuck in the last bit of dill and garlic between cucumbers.

6. Fill jars with brine, ensuring cucumbers are completely covered.

7. Cover jars loosely with cheesecloth and secure with elastic band if necessary. Store in a cool dark place for 1 week. Check jars every day to ensure cucumbers remain submerged and top with additional brine as necessary. If scum or foam develops on surface, skim it off and discard.

8. After 4 days, taste a pickle and decide if they're ready or if you want them fermented longer. "Half sours" usually take 3 to 4 days, while "full sours" take 5 to 7 days. To stop pickling process, cover jars with a lid and place in the refrigerator. **JANET NEZON, OWNER OF RAINBOW PLATE (RAINBOWPLATE.COM)**

Ingredients

- 4 l (16 cups) water (unchlorinated if possible)
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) pickling salt
- 2 kg (4 lb) Kirby pickling cucumbers (about 20, depending on size)
- 4 to 6 sprigs dillweed, preferably seeded, washed
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced in half
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) pickling spice

4 SPORTS

Aaron Hernandez

Accused murderer requests delay in Florida lawsuit

Former NFL star tight end Aaron Hernandez is seeking to delay proceedings in a Florida lawsuit until a murder charge against him in Massachusetts is resolved.

Hernandez's lawyers filed the postponement request Tuesday in federal court. They say it would be legally unfair to Hernandez to permit the lawsuit to continue while he is defending himself in the shooting death of 27-year-old Odin Lloyd. Hernandez has pleaded not guilty to Lloyd's slaying and weapons charges.

In the Florida lawsuit, 30-year-old Alexander Bradley claims Hernandez shot him in the face after they argued at a strip club in February. Bradley seeks at least $100,000 in damages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Jays recall Romero to The Show

Ricky Romero started this miserable season on the outside looking in, but he is getting a chance to finish the year on a positive note.

Romero was recalled from triple-A Buffalo on Monday and added to the Jays' expanded roster.

Romero, the Jays' former ace and all-star, who struggled through a disastrous 2012 season and failed to make the club out of spring training, spent the bulk of the season pitching for the Buffalo Bisons, following an ill-fated two-start return to the Jays in May.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Novak Djokovic won his fourth-round U.S. Open match against Marcel Granollers in convincing fashion on Tuesday in New York. JOE SCARNICI/GETTY IMAGES

Djokovic love-loves his latest victim

U.S. Open. Top-ranked men's player shuts out Granollers over final two sets to advance to quarter-finals

Showing the kind of beginning-to-end focus he'll need to win the U.S. Open, top-seeded Novak Djokovic strung together 13 straight games Tuesday to close out a 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 thrashing of Marcel Granollers and advance to his 18th straight Grand Slam quarter-final.

"Today, second and third set have been some of the best tennis that I've played on Arthur Ashe in my career," said Djokovic, who has made the final at Flushing Meadows the last three years and won it in 2011.

"It all comes at a great time for me. It was something I was wishing to be more aggressive as the tournament progresses and to be able to stay committed to play every point, to win every point, regardless of the score."

The match took 79 minutes against Granollers, who was on court for nearly three and a half hours two days before in a five-set win over Tim Smyczek.

Over the final two sets, Djokovic had embarrassingly large advantages in points (50-15) and winners (22-3), and he even won on 21 of 22 moves up to net, which isn't his normal style.

Djokovic has spent a total of five hours and 42 minutes on court without dropping a set. He has lost more than three games in any single set only once, against Benjamin Becker, who actually had a pair of set points in the first set of their second-round match, but lost them both. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women's draw

No. 2 Victoria Azarenka rallied from a set down for the second straight match, beating Ana Ivanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

- Later Tuesday, fifth-seeded Li Na beat No. 24-seeded Ekaterina Makarova 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2 and No. 1-seeded Serena Williams shut out 18th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro 6-0, 6-0 to advance to the semifinals.

Esks' Hervey unleashes wrath on Rottier

The Stampeders sacked Edmonton quarterback Mike Reilly seven times on Monday in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Edmonton Eskimos general manager Ed Hervey lit into his 1-8 football team Tuesday, and announced he has reached past his coaching staff to indefinitely bench underperforming offensive lineman Simeon Rottier.

Hervey told reporters he will no longer sit quietly by and watch star quarterback Mike Reilly get slammed, drilled and rag-dolled after every throw.

"I'm done watching it," Hervey told a news conference at Commonwealth Stadium, a day after Reilly was sacked seven times in the team's 37-34 loss to the Calgary Stampeders.

"I've had enough."

Hervey said he met with head coach Kavis Reed after the game to discuss the changes, which include a new play-caller on offence, but when asked about Rottier said, "There was no room for negotiation on this one.

"Our football team is going to rest on the shoulders of how healthy and how much success Mike Reilly has. We have to protect him to give ourselves a chance.

"Our offensive line needs to improve and needs to improve fast," he said, adding that changes are coming to the line.

He said while linemen like Matt O'Donnell, Alexander Krausnick and Thaddeus Coleman a have shown promise, he has lost patience with Rottier.

"The majority of my frustration has been with Simeon," he said.

"Clearly Simeon is not living up to expectations. It wouldn't bother me if he didn't play another down this year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DRIVE

The 2014 Infiniti Q50

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Compare

1 Acura TL
Base price: $41,900

2 Cadillac CTS Sedan
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Review. This beauty beats the G37 and will get all your senses moving

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

A new name and a slew of techno enhancements are the first clues that Infiniti's Q50 sedan is something special.

But with nearly every member of Nissan's upscale division switching to new alphanumeric identification along with, in most cases, reconfigured sheetmetal, it isn't the only interesting car on Infiniti's plate for 2014. Although it was thought that the Q50 would replace the G37, the sedan version will remain in the United States as an entry model for a couple more seasons. As of press time, it's unclear whether Canada will follow suit.

Since the Q50 and G37 share the same basic dimensions, platform, suspension and powertrain and offer the same all-wheel-drive option, the differences between the two boil down to style and standard and available content. In both categories the Q50 outshines the G37 by a wide margin and should experience little trouble attracting buyers desiring a well-equipped rolling fashion statement to tool around in. Another important point of differentiation is the addition of the Q50 Hybrid that combines a potent mix of fuel economy and performance.

A cabin that elevates tastefulness to a new level also reaffirms the car's luxury-vehicle cred. This is especially in evidence with a dual-cockpit-shaped dashboard with both 17.5- and 20-centimetre touchscreen displays that operate the climate, communications and optional navigation systems.

Going forward, the Q50 employs a 3.7-litre V6 (same as in the G37) that makes 328 horsepower and 269 pound-feet of torque, while the Q50 Hybrid combines a 302-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 with an electric motor rated at 67 horsepower and 214 pound-feet of torque to produce 360 net horsepower.

The Q50 Hybrid's gasoline-electric powertrain is virtually identical to that used in what was previously called the M35h. For 2014, the M35h has been renamed the Q70 Hybrid. Its 50-kilowatt electric motor uses energy stored in a 346-volt lithium-ion battery pack located behind the rear seat. The Hybrid uses the same seven-speed automatic transmission as the regular Q50, as opposed to a less-than-sporting continuously variable unit found in most other hybrids. As well you can specify all-wheel-drive for the Hybrid, which is not available on similarly propelled Lexus or Lincoln models.

Befitting of any luxury sedan, the Q50 arrives properly attired, however the Q50 Premium adds heated front seats, power moonroof and Bose's 14-speaker "Studio on Wheels" audio system. Note that the Q50 Hybrid starts at the Premium trim level.

The Q50S adds metal-trim accents, 19-inch wheels, sport-tuned suspension and brakes and a different front bumper.

The Q50's $39,500 base price ($49,000 for the Hybrid Premium) is competitive with similar North American, German and Japanese marques, but with elevated content and eye appeal that communicates a unique luxury presence regardless of what name appears on the truck lid.

2014 Infiniti Q50

- **Type.** Four-door, rear- /all-wheel-drive mid-size luxury sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 3.7-litre DOHC V6 (328); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 + electric motor (360, net)
- **Transmissions.** Seven-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $39,500

Technology

Your Q50 can also be ordered with any number of option groupings, including a technology package with all the latest electronic safety enhancements such as blind-spot, lane-departure and forward collision warnings.

Fuel Economy

The stowage-space penalty is significant, but apart from the performance gain, the Hybrid rates an impressive 7.0 l/100 km in the city and 5.6 on the highway. The gasoline-only Q50 earns a 10.6/6.7 rating.

Design

As for looks, the Q50 shows off its top form with tasteful curves, swirls, bulges and angles that makes the once-stylish G37 seem downright dated and frumpy by comparison. It's also set apart by a hunkered-down stance that reaffirms its sport-sedan status, in particular with the optional 19-inch

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Titanium model shown

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Your emotions are all over the place and for that reason you are advised not to make any spur-of-the-moment decisions where affairs of the heart are concerned. You could start something you cannot stop.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Why are you focusing on the one little thing that appears to be going wrong in your life when so many bigger things are going right? Whatever the reason you need to get over it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Some kind of setback could throw you out of your stride today, but overall things are very much in your favour at the moment so there is no need to panic. The recipe for happiness is simple: worry less, love more.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You think you know everything about a certain person but what happens over the next 24 hours will show you don't know the half of it. And you'll realize it's a great surprise.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone you are fond of may have done something of which you don't approve but there is no need to make an issue of it. If you love them, you should give them your full support.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Not everyone is as poised and graceful as you so if a friend or relative falls flat on their face today try not to laugh . . . too much. Of course, if they keep falling over there may be something seriously wrong.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Whatever else you do today, don't get involved in other people's domestic situations. Even if you know you can help, your intervention won't be appreciated. Be smart and keep your distance.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something has put you on edge and you don't like it one bit. The best thing to do is to put a name to the problem and then deal with it efficiently and ruthlessly.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What you feel rather than what you think counts for more today. No matter how good a deal may look on paper if your instincts tell you there is something not quite right, you would be wise to turn it down.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Capricorns are not as detached as some people seem to think they are and what happens over the next couple of days will give you a chance to prove it. Be happy. Be warm.

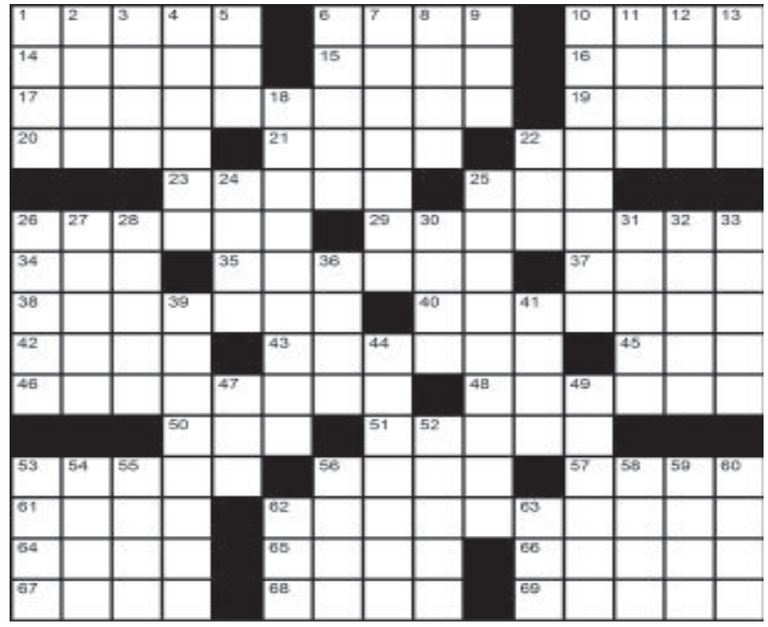
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You give off powerful vibrations that attract people to you and they will get more powerful still over the next 48 hours while the moon is new. Just make sure all these new friends don't cost you lots of money.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A little bit of flattery will go a long way today and will go even further tomorrow when the moon is new in your opposite sign. Just don't say things you don't mean — that's just dishonest. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



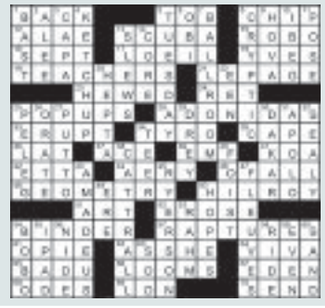
Across

1. "If I __ __ so myself..."
6. Large lot
10. Yarn ball
14. Singer/songwriter Fiona
15. Murmurs
16. Mystical light
17. California cracks: 2 wds.
19. Splashy stuff
20. Drive-__
21. Betting likelihoods
22. Sensible
23. Washing cycle
25. Feel sick
26. Belgium seaport
29. Canadian correspondent on NBC's "Dateline" who is Matthew Perry's stepfather, Keith __
34. Occupational suffix
35. French brandy
37. Robert De __
38. Canadian rowing great/Olympian, Silken __
40. Carol __ (Canadian author born in Oak Park, Illinois)
42. Other: Spanish
43. Rubenesque
45. "Rubber Ball" singer Bobby
46. Kibbles holder, as opposed to water: 2 wds.
48. Facing
50. Gold: Spanish
51. Roberta Flack's "The First Time __ __ Saw Your Face"
53. #49-Down inspired this writer's 'Pooh' books, A.A. __ (b.1882 - d.1956)
56. Secular
57. California wine valley
61. Similar
62. Contents
64. Ms. Ward
65. __ the finish: 2 wds.
66. Abercrombie & __
67. Eleventh letters
68. Queen's "Radio __ __"
69. Ruffle, as '80s hairstyles

Down

1. Electro music's __ Punk
2. Moonfish
3. Prod
4. Magnetism
5. Nevertheless
6. Citric, and others
7. Strongly denounce
8. Egg masses
9. Twisty turn
10. Alberta is named in honour of Queen Victoria's sixth child, Princess Louise __ Alberta (b.1848 - d.1939)
11. Hawaiian feast
12. CNN's "__ Burnett OutFront"
13. Harry Potter's prop
18. #49-Down became popular at England's what?: 2 wds.
22. Gentleman's title
24. King Atahualpa, for one
25. Building designer
26. __ __ Olay
27. "From __ shining...": 2 wds.
28. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
30. Brewer's kiln
31. Region's forest trees
32. Command
33. Rudolph, red-__
36. Chew
39. "Vogue" singer's namesakes
41. Mr. Stravinsky
44. Horrid stopover, __ motel
47. 1990s gold mining scandal, __-X
49. Canada's most famous bear which belonged to WWI soldier Harry Colebourn
52. Panorama
53. Conceal
54. Swedish furniture store
55. Flower type
56. Roman moon goddess
58. Official records
59. Bench press muscles, for short
60. "I think it's __ __." ...said the vet of the newly born puppy
62. 'John Hancock', e.g.
63. Ship's stern

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		4		9		2	
		8	3		1	5		
6								9
		1		7		9		
7								1
		3		5		4		
8								3
		6	7		8	1		
	5		6		2		7	

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	4	8	3	5	2	1
5	8	2	1	6	9	7	3	4
1	3	4	2	7	5	8	6	9
8	9	5	6	2	1	3	4	7
7	2	3	9	5	4	6	1	8
4	1	6	8	3	7	9	5	2
2	6	7	3	4	8	1	9	5
3	5	1	7	9	2	4	8	6
9	4	8	5	1	6	2	7	3

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 23° MIN: 12°	MAX: 31° MIN: 15°	MAX: 28° MIN: 18°

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